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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/682,427
Filing Date: August 31, 2001
Inventor (first named): Prediger
Group Art Unit: 1746
Examiner Name: CREPEAU, Jonathan
Attorney Docket No.: 45283.7

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FAX No. 703-872-9306 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Examiner Jonathan Crepeau,
at Group Art Unit 1746 in Arlington, VA 22202

DATED: July 27, 2004

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EILEEN LUCAS

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED 06/07/2004

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 7, 2004 and is within the three month period for reply.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 13-16 as being obvious in light of JP 7-6778 in view of Wilkinson et al., US Patent No. 6,096,448 (the "Wilkinson reference"). With respect, it is submitted that the teachings of these two references when combined do not teach all the limitations of the claimed invention, and one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of these two references in any event.

It is stated in MPEP, para. 2143: